

interested in eliminating any unfairness, at the same time we did not want to jeopardize what is a very important principle that is involved in establishing residence. To quote from a publication on the right to vote and what it means and what the implications are: "A reasonable minimum period of residence, by assuring that a voter is a bonafide resident could serve to prevent various abuses such as multiple voting, persons declaring themselves residents of several places and voting several times or temporary settlement of an area by nonresidents for the purpose of influencing an election."

Certainly the Committee had every desire to be fair and to extend the franchise as widely as could be done responsibly. At the same time, the Committee felt it incumbent on it to protect the integrity of the electoral process.

For this reason, we would not accept the provision that registration or the residence requirement in the delegate district be tied to the time for closing of registration.

As Delegate Case has made very clear, while now the closing of the books occurs either four or five weeks before an election, it is very possible that with the advent of sophisticated electronic equipment, it would be possible administratively to do this in three or four days. First of all we would seriously question the ability of a person who comes into a house district three or four days before an election to cast a vote intelligently. Small local elections, I am sure, as you are all aware, do not attract the same kind of coverage by mass media and that means of informing voters is not available.

Secondly in terms of single member districts, and the number of voters involved in those districts, we think that reducing the residence requirement to the level established by the James amendment could indeed be a dangerous thing and a threat to the integrity of the electoral process. I urge you to vote against reconsideration.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor of the motion to reconsider?

Delegate Carson.

DELEGATE CARSON: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I understand that the only difference between the committee language and the proposal, which I think excellent, by Delegate James, is this. That under the Committee Recommendation there is an absolute three-month period which ties in with nothing else.

Article 33, section 3a has now specified that the books close twenty-eight days prior to the election. Senator James' amendment would have the beneficial effect of tying in this date to whatever the date the book would close. It is now twenty-eight days prior to the election.

This would permit the General Assembly in its wisdom to decide when the transfer could occur. I think as Delegate Case pointed out it is beneficial to have a person vote in that area in which he is a resident and in which he is interested rather than in an area which he has abandoned and to which he does not intend to return.

I urge you to support the motion for reconsideration and on the merits, I urge you to support the James amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to be heard in opposition?

Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Mr. Chairman, I would suggest all the same arguments—or not all, but just about all—of the same arguments we heard today for reconsideration were heard last night. A vote was resounding in favor of the Committee's report.

The one thing we have heard that is new is the attempt to tie in the constitution to a statute. This sounds very interesting.

I thought the reverse would be true. That is to attempt to tie in the statutes to the constitution. If we were to follow the statutes in all phases and in all fields, it would be a field day, would it not?

All the things we have heard today are no different from the things we heard last night. I strongly urge everyone to support the majority opinion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to be heard in favor?

Delegate James.

DELEGATE JAMES: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, there is one supplemental point I would like to call to your attention. This has been brought to our attention by the Association of Election Supervisors.

Under the strict application of the present rule when the three-month period arises—of course, this is now six months in the present law—a voter moving to another district gets a certificate of removal